

farmers, be they business, big business, small business, but in this case, railroad, yes, Paul, thank you, or railroaders. But in this case it's quite obvious to me, I wish I could support you, Senator Horgan, but I think I'll have to support Senator Baack and Senator Chambers in this instance. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Horgan. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President, I just want to...we got into this whole discussion due to a need apparently by the Omaha Public Schools to clear up some of the discussion that was on the floor, and there have been a couple of things said that I think need to be cleared up as we go along here and we muddy the waters a little bit more. Senator Chambers talks about the \$8,000 tuition at District 66. I just want to point out it's \$3,800 per pupil. It's not 8,000. If you had two students you'd, as one lady in south Omaha does, she pays close to \$8,000 a year, but it's \$3,800. As far as the comments about these families, these 11 families being represented by a rich lawyer in Omaha, the rich lawyer, I don't know what his finances are, but the rich lawyer represents only about four or five of the families. The other families are really not involved other than the fact that they're part of the group of families who are paying tuition to District 66 and made application to opt out and were denied by the Omaha Public Schools. So the rich lawyer doesn't represent all the families and they don't all pay him a big salary, I'm sure, just the few pay him a big salary, and the assumption is that these are very privileged people and, indeed, when this amendment was brought to me, I can tell you of the 11 families, I know none of them. So I cannot certify to you how wealthy and privileged or not that they are, but I've been told that their economic situation goes across the entire spectrum and, indeed, they are not all wealthy parents who can afford this easily and, therefore, I think those three points need to be cleared up. And, you know, I'm not a lawyer, but the question of the constitutionality of this whole issue I think is a little bit suspect and perhaps some of the other lawyers in the Chamber could address that issue better than I can, but I don't believe that it's a constitutional question. If you look at the wording of the amendment, it simply says on page 13 of the bill, or that the resident district has not approved the student's transfer to the option district. It does not establish, in my opinion, a special class of people. So that would close my remarks on this wonderful bill that I've had the